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Control: 18804
Rec'd: December 29, 1963
8:17 a.m.

FROM: Athens

ACTION: Secstate 929 Priority

INFO: Paris Priority 97
Rome 90 Priority
London 56 Priority
Ankara 53 Priority
Istanbul 26 Priority
USUN unnumbered

DATE: December 29, 1 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/R
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PARIS FOR USRO, BURNS AND JAMES

ROME FOR BURRIS

EMBTEL 926.

King has called Papandreou and Canellopoulos for joint meeting later this morning. This presumably King's last attempt to avert elections by exploring whether some form political government might be agreed upon to carry through present Cyprus crisis. Chances better than even Papandreou will have his way and King will dissolve Parliament opening way for election February 9 or 16 and agree to Crown Council proposal - (EMBTEL 919). ERE rank and file still hoping decision can be postponed, and elections called only if Cyprus situation improves materially. They are very unhappy about prospect of elections and CU deputies don't relish idea either thinking of their pocket books.

Union of Cypriot students and others numbering five hundred, staged desultory march to PRIMIN's office on December 28 and were told GOG following peaceful policy on Cyprus as evidenced by placing Greek forces on island under British command. He urged them not to visit Turk Embassy and advice was followed. Press

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GPO 867-149

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-2- 929, December 29, 1 p.m., from Athens

Press reporting on Cyprus continues reflect government's tone of optimism, while ERE press is gloomier. EDA has now chimed in calling for session of Parliament to air Cyprus problem, at which time EDA would support referral of matter to UN, denunciation of Cyprus agreements, and argue for right of self-determination.

LABOUISSE

LMS/6

Note: Advanced Delivery to S/S-O 12/29/63 10:10 a.m. FSS

Note: Passed White House, OSD, Army, Navy, Air and CIA 12/29/63 10:20 a.m.

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